



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



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### Families can treat GIs on Thanksgiving

Web Posted: 11/16/2005 12:00 AM CST

**Sig Christenson**

**Express-News Military Writer**

Uncle Sam wants San Antonio-area residents to do their part in the war on terrorism.

The job: feeding hungry soldiers and airmen on Thanksgiving Day.

Fort Sam Houston and Lackland AFB are seeking to enlist families as hosts to troops wanting a home-cooked meal and, perhaps, a nap away from the prying eyes of trainers.

"The men and women training here at Fort Sam will soon become combat medics, and the majority will be serving soon after graduation in Iraq or Afghanistan," post spokesman Phil Reidinger said. "Inviting them to your home is an excellent opportunity to thank them for their service to our nation."

Fort Sam's "Mission Thanksgiving" and Lackland's 31st "Operation Homecooking" match area families within a half-hour of the installations with soldiers and airmen. Troops at Fort Sam are in the Army's 16-week, 91-Whiskey program for medics. Nine of 10 will be sent to Iraq or Afghanistan next year.

Airmen at Lackland are undergoing basic and advanced training.

"It's really important to them," Lackland spokesman Oscar Balladares said. "For a lot of these kids, it's the first time they've been away from home during a major holiday."

Last year, the Air Force matched 1,900 recruits with area families. It hopes to place almost as many airmen this year, he said.

At Fort Sam, the post's 16th annual Mission Thanksgiving aims to place at least 1,000 soldiers with local families. Last year, more than 1,200 soldiers left the post to enjoy turkey with the trimmings.

Families wanting to adopt the troops on Thanksgiving must pick them up at Lackland or Fort Sam and return them the same night.

Those wanting to help Fort Sam soldiers can call the Army Medical Department Center chapel at (210) 221-3390, (210) 221-4362 or (210) 221-3391 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Officials at Lackland will take calls from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays at (210) 671-5453, (210) 671-5454 or (210) 671-3701.

Families also can register to sponsor airmen at [www.lackland.af.mil/homecook](http://www.lackland.af.mil/homecook).

"We'll go up to the last day to place these kids," Balladares said, but he cautioned that people shouldn't wait until the last minute.

"We want to make sure the recruits are available. But there's always the possibility we could run out, because response from the community has been tremendous."

*San Antonio Express News*

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# AETC News Clips

## Altus AFB, Okla.



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**Privatization** could cost schools over \$1 million

by Michael Bush,  
managing editor

**Privatization of base housing** was a major topic of discussion at Monday night's regular meeting of the Altus School Board. Superintendent Bob Drury said that after finding out about a month to six weeks ago that plans were underway to **privatize the housing at Altus Air Force Base**, questions were immediately raised about how this might affect the district's federal impact funding.

"Although personal property tax could now be put on those houses, which could mean about \$93,000 for the school district out of the \$187,000 raised for the county, the status of the students living on the **air base** would change. This would result in a loss of over \$1 million to Altus Public Schools," Drury said.

Drury said that he had approached both State Rep. David Braddock and State Sen. Robert Kerr to look into the matter, who said that there were a couple of different ways to **privatize the housing**, including leasing.

Ex-officio board member **Col. Linda Medler** was on hand at the meeting to give further insight to the matter.

"If the property was leased, it would remain federal property and would be exempt from county taxation," **said Medler**. "But, the developer's assets to improve the housing would be considered taxable by the county which would change the status, thereby affecting the status of federal funding for the school district."

Drury said that the taxation issue needs to be a community decision.

"People need to let the tax assessor know if we want to let this be tax exempt or not," said Drury.

He also wanted to make clear that if the housing was taxed, it would be on the housing only, and not the **base** as a whole.

**Medler** also added that the police and fire services currently being offered will continue at no additional cost to the county under the privatization.

"The only difference the school district is going to see if their personal property is taxed is a loss over \$1 million," said Drury.?

Aside from the **base housing privatization**, Drury also reported on a grant and a school award.

"I want to take this time to recognize Janet Diltz and her crew for the success they have had in again receiving an award for the annual," said Drury. "The high school annual has again won the All-Oklahoma Award. We are very proud of her and her crew."





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Drury then introduced Washington Elementary School principal Renee Long and Danny McCuiston of Shamrock Bank. McCuiston said that Washington had applied for one of their classroom enhancement grants and that he was pleased to announce that they would be receiving \$5,000 to help put libraries back into the classrooms. He said that the grant money was made possible by former bank owner Carolyn Watson.

Before turning the meeting back over for other agenda items, Drury commented on the new look of Washington Elementary, and that he was very proud of the facility, the teachers, students and parents for their continued involvement with the school. He also thanked the students for the decorations and refreshments for the evening.

Members of the cheerleading teams, the softball teams and cross country teams and their coaches were also recognized during the meeting for their many accomplishments both locally and at state.

The board approved a resolution calling for an election to be held Feb. 14, 2006. Voters will elect a board member for position No. 1, currently held by David Walker. Walker did not say if he was going to run for reelection to the five-year term.

The final school district budget was then approved for 2005-2006. The budget was based on an estimate of needs which was approved at the September meeting. The budget reflected a total general fund of \$24,758,399.04; and a total building fund of \$3,548,777.46.

Altus Middle School had been informed by the state that they would have to change their name. Principal Robert Bowers was present for the meeting and said that the students and teachers had been polled and that the most popular suggestion had been "Altus Intermediate School." The board voted to accept the recommendation.

It was noted by Drury that a request had been submitted by several teachers and school personnel to share sick leave days with Altus Junior High secretary Kathy Scalf. Approval of the request would allow Scalf an addition 60 days for cancer surgery and recovery time. The request was approved.

John Redelsperger, director of related services, was given approval to take action to declare three older buses as surplus. Drury also announced that the charter buses that a group of them had went to look at after the last board meeting were in the process of being purchased.

A food allergy guideline was then presented and approved by the board.

After returning from executive session, the board announced the reassignment of cafeteria clerk Elaine Hawkins from 7 hours to 8 hours a day; and asst. high school principal Nancy Evans to director of curriculum at the board office.

New hires approved included: Certified, Michelle Berck, Foreign Language teacher at the high school; Non-certified: Maria Barton, cook at the high school; Carol Buchanan, computer lab asst. at the middle school; Peggy Farquhar, custodian at the board of education; Sandra Garcia, teacher aide at Booker; Jandi Oden, special ed aide at Washington; Robert Ortiz, custodian at the high school; and Salica Wiggins, teacher aide at Booker.





# AETC News Clips

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## Transportation upgrades pave way for westside future

*By Elizabeth Jackman*

City planners are working on a Major General Plan Amendment which will update the Land Use Map for a 4.5-square-mile area of land that runs along the Loop 303 corridor in the far western portion of Glendale.

It will be the first MGPA since the current Glendale 2025 General Plan became effective in December 2002.

The 4.5-square-mile area stretches from Peoria Avenue on the north boundary to Glendale Avenue in the south and from Reems Road in the east all the way west to Cotton Lane.

"The amended area abuts to, but does not go inside the noise contours of Luke Air Force Base, it is just west of the contours," Senior Planner Kate Langford said.

"Development is coming to the area no matter what jurisdiction it is in because of transportation improvements."

In November 2004, Maricopa County voters approved Proposition 400, a half-cent state transportation tax, some of which will be used to improve Loop 303. A five-mile stretch of Loop 303 runs through the far western portion of Glendale's Municipal Planning Area (MPA).

The 4.5-square-mile area chosen for the major amendment represents the most active area for development proposals as well as the area where the greatest opportunity to effectuate change occurs.

Current planning guidelines for the land is mostly low-density residential development with some commercial land use.

If the plan is amended, it will change to a majority of mixed retail, entertainment and office space with a small amount of residential.

In July 2005, a total of 2,200 notification postcards were sent to adjacent property owners and interested parties and a series of citizen participation meetings were held throughout the summer.

Approximately 85 people attended the initial citizen participation meeting.

*Glendale Star*

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Issues raised included general development concerns; Loop 303 timing and impact; why Glendale was requesting a major amendment for the area; and how streets will be improved and transportation impacts be addressed.

"We contacted Luke Air Force Base first, so they had the earliest opportunity for input. They have sent us a letter stating they are very supportive of this particular amendment," Langford said.

To date, Langford said there has been some interest in annexation, with two applications having been received.

The first was from Derito Partners and Barclay Group to develop 105.55 acres on the southeast corner of Loop 303 and Peoria Avenue to a mix of motor vehicle dealerships and retail called "Glendale 303," and the second from Element Homes to build a develop Woolf Crossing between Reems and Sarival Roads just north of Olive.

Planning director Jon Froke said that updating the Land Use Map for this 4.5-square-mile area will provide Glendale with a strong growth management tool for use in the development of this area.

The MGPA was presented to council at a workshop Nov. 1 and is expected to go to council for a vote at the Nov. 22 meeting.

*Glendale Star*

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